



**COMSECNDFLT Public Affairs**  
1751 Morris St., Bldg D-29, Norfolk, VA 23511  
Voice: 757-443-9850 (X47127)/Fax: 757-443-9805  
POC: Cmdr. Conrad Chun  
<http://www.secondfleet.navy.mil/>



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **USS Simpson to Return from Deployment**

Mayport, Fla. – More than 200 Sailors from the guided missile frigate USS Simpson (FFG 56) are scheduled to return to their homeport in Mayport on Saturday after completing a six-month deployment in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

While deployed USS Simpson conducted Theater Security Cooperation in the U.S. Sixth Fleet Area of Responsibility (AOR.). As part of the Standing NATO Maritime Group, USS Simpson participated in multiple exercises with a variety of nations. The exercises varied in scope but included such training as live-fire exercise, simulated disaster relief, operating in the Norwegian fjords, sea control in the littoral environment, and countering asymmetric threats.

Most recently, USS Simpson, under Amphibious Squadron 8, participated with the amphibious assault ship USS Saipan (LHA-2) in Phoenix Express 06. This U.S.-led multinational exercise included participants from Algeria, France, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia.

This deployment was designed to be flexible and provided presence and strike power to support joint and allied forces afloat and ashore. The ship deployed from Mayport Naval Station, Fla., January 4.

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**NOTE: Media partners wishing to cover the homecoming of the USS Simpson should contact Naval Station Mayport Public Affairs at (904) 270-5226.**

Information on USS Arleigh Burke is available by visiting <http://www.navy.mil/>. Use the ship type to find information on the ships.